UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII	
FOR THE DIS.	INICI OF HAWAII
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)) Case No. 19-CR-00099-DKW-1
Plaintiff,) March 11, 2022) 9:30 a.m.
vs.)
MICHAEL J. MISKE, JR.,)) U.S. District Court
Defendant.	•
TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING ON DEFENDANT'S SECOND MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY BEFORE THE HONORABLE KENNETH J. MANSFIELD UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE APPEARANCES: (Via Video Tele-Conference)	
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Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording; transcript produced by transcription service.

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    MARCH 11, 2022
                                                       9:30 A.M.
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              THE CLERK: United States District Court for the
    District of Hawai'i with the Honorable Kenneth J. Mansfield,
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    United States Magistrate Judge presiding is now in session.
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              Criminal number 19-00099-DKW-KJM, United States of
    America v. Defendant (01) Michael J. Miske, Jr. This hearing has
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    been called on a second motion to compel discovery. Counsel,
    please make your appearances for the record, starting with the
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    Government.
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              MR. SMITH: Good morning, Your Honor. Micah Smith,
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    Michael Nammar, and Mark Inciong for the United States.
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              THE COURT: Good morning.
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              MS. PANAGAKOS: Good morning, Your Honor. Lynn
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    Panagakos and Thomas Otake on behalf of Michael J. Miske, Jr.,
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    and Mr. Miske is present from FDC on the telephone over there, I
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    believe.
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              THE COURT: Okay. Good morning. May we have Michael
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    Miske on the phone, please?
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              UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, Your Honor.
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              THE DEFENDANT: Good morning, Your Honor.
              THE COURT: Good morning. Is this Michael Miske?
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              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.
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              THE COURT: Good morning. This is Judge Mansfield.
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    Ms. Panagakos and Mr. Otake are on the phone, as are Mr. Smith,
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    Mr. Nammar, Mr. Inciong from the U.S. Attorney's Office, and
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    likely some other members of the public listening in.
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              And this morning we have set for hearing your second
    motion to compel discovery. And before we proceed, I want to be
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    sure you agree to holding this hearing by telephone, Mr. Miske.
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              THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor, and good morning,
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    counselors.
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              THE COURT: Okay. Okay. Thank you.
              And I have reviewed the -- excuse me -- the motion, the
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    memo in opp, and the reply. And I would like to hear argument
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    from counsel, so Ms. Panagakos or Mr. Otake, whoever is arguing,
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    you can go first.
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              MS. PANAGAKOS: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you. This is
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    Ms. Panagakos.
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              Your Honor, our motion request for production of
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    missing reports as well as the removal of redactions, which are
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    concealing exculpatory evidence, which will help undermine
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    essential aspects of the RICO charge. What I call the RICO
    enterprise, affairs of membership, and existence elements.
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                                                                 The
    requested evidence is also relevant to help undermine the
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    Government's charge that Miske is a member of the drug conspiracy
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    charge in Count 16.
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              It appears, Your Honor, that the Government is -- has
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    intentionally -- has made an intentional decision to redact --
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    when one witness talks about another witness, who is a
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    cooperator, the Government redacts what that witness says about
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the other cooperator. So everything -- in this instance, everything that Ashlin Akau says about Jacob Smith and Lindsey Kinney are redacted.

That's exculpatory because she describes numerous alleged offenses, which the Government contends are affairs of what the Government calls the Miske Enterprise. And what Ashlin Akau describes in the context of these offenses is who committed them, how they were associated with one another, the motives for the crimes. And all of it has nothing to do with Mr. Miske. And that's why the redactions are concealing exculpatory evidence.

For example, at Bate stamp 2-1-6-7-3-3, she describes the conduct which is charged as a Hobbs Act Robbery in Count 18 and is alleged to be an affair of the Miske Enterprise. And the way it's in our report is that, redacted, approached CI, who was Ashlin Akau, along with Norman Akau back in June 2016, about a proposition to rip off dope from, and then an entire line is, redacted, so it's more than just the alleged dope dealer victim's name, and then while they were drinking at The Shack in Kailua.

That, redacted, was, redacted, source for dope. That Ashlin Akau met, redacted, through Norman Akau during the drug rip of June 2016. So, for example, I believe that in that instance the, redacted, is Jacob Smith. So she's describing how she, Ashlin Akau, met Jacob Smith, through her uncle Norman Akau, while they were ripping off the person whose identity is concealed, but is disclosed elsewhere to be Nicholas Carignan,

who has nothing to do with Mr. Miske, concerning drug deals that he had nothing to do with, but we can't see it because of the redactions.

So, instead, I have been going through needles and

haystacks to pick out other places where I could find the information, and then inserted it handwritten on my document, so I can interpret these things. I obviously can't get ready for trial with such things, because I can't use them for crossexamination, when it's just my handwritten notes as to what's behind these redactions.

Anyway, going on with this Nicholas Carignan thing. She says that it was done by members of the Nakipi Club. The people involved in the writ were several co-defendants, Norman Akau, Lance Bermudez, and then two people who are redacted, likely one of them is Jake Smith and another one who is just a mystery person, and other members of the Nakipi Motorcycle Club.

That the members of the Nakipi Motorcycle Club are
Harry Kauhi, Norman Akau, and a number of redacteds. So, here
again, Norman Akau and Harry Kauhi are both alleged to be members
of the Miske Enterprise, and she's describing them as members of
another group that commits crimes together with other people who
are redacted.

We need to know who all these people are that committed this offense, so we can prepare our defense to it, so we can show -- and it's exculpatory because it undermines the notion that

this is an affair of this fictional thing that the Government calls the Miske Enterprise. Anyway, it goes on. She was paid \$2,000 for setting up redacted for the rip, and then there's another entire line that's redacted.

So that's an example of exculpatory information on Count 18, that's being redacted. I mean, you know, if I couldnot

Count 18, that's being redacted. I mean, you know, if I couldn't -- if I didn't compare this with other documents, which I guess the Government chalks up its disclosure to human error, the way they describe it in their opposition, I wouldn't even know that this was Count 18. So that's one.

Another one is Count 8, the conduct, which they claim was attempted murder of Lindsey Kinney. Now Lindsey Kinney is also a member of Nakipi. And she describes in the same report how somebody redacted told her that Norman Akau along with Uncle Zeph set up this shooting. Uncle Zeph is also a member of Nakipi. Anyway Akau took redacted's gun away from him so that Miske and some others redacted, probably Jake Smith, could shoot.

That redacted told Akau -- Ashlin Akau he was dealing ice for redacted for a couple of weeks before the shooting.

During that time redacted did return money back to redacted a couple of times and then stopped. On the day of the shooting, redacted called Ashlin Akau and said, he had clipped redacted, meaning that he didn't pay him back for the dope.

So this is -- and then -- so this is describing a drug related shooting that Miske had nothing to do with these drugs.

And, you know, and it's being -- we need -- again, the disclosure of this information is exculpatory because it's going to show that this incident, which the Government claims was an affair of the alleged Miske Enterprise and also was committed by people for the purpose of advancing their positions in the Miske Enterprise.

And she says that redacted told her that redacted and told Akau to take care of redacted, referring to shooting redacted while redacted was off island. Ashlin Akau stated redacted did this to find out if Akau, with his boys, and to question Akau's loyalty being that both Akau and redacted were in the Nakipi Club together and that redacted and Akau are calabash brothers.

So, for example, who and Akau are calabash brothers?

Is that Jacob Smith? I think so, but I don't know. But again, it shows that these people have separate associations, either through Nakipi or being calabash brothers, and this is how Ashlin Akau gets into it, through her uncle who introduces her to his calabash brother and the people in Nakipi, and I can't see it because of these exculpatory concealments. So that's one.

Another one is -- another -- and so, Your Honor, this indictment is very general. It doesn't have a pattern of racketeering activity. I mean, I get it that there's case law that says technically in a conspiracy case you don't have to allege a pattern of racketeering activity, but you still have to provide notice and the notice has to be in the indictment, and

it's not.

So instead what we have is what the Government calls an enterprise letter. It's not on file, it doesn't bind them to anything, whatever. But there's 76 paragraphs. Some of them have more than on offense in them, and they say they may prove one or more of these, whatever.

Anyway, one of them is an alleged attempted assault against somebody that has nothing to do with Miske. Now Ashlin Akau, at page 4-5-8-9-2 says, apparently, that she was -- that it was done -- that the offense was committed by a number of redacted people, and that she was the get away driver for a number of redacted people, after it was over. Now who were the redacted people, we don't know. It's being concealed.

But, again, the Government claims this is an affair of the Miske enterprise, we say it's not. We need to know what the witnesses are saying as to who was involved and why, so that we can do our investigation and undermine the claim that these are affairs of this alleged enterprise.

She says -- you know, so she says that she picked up redacted at a certain location, Cinnamon's Restaurant. Then another person, who is also redacted, that's at 2-1-6-5-6-8, which I believe is Lindsey Kinney, but it's redacted, he says that someone else was the get away driver and that other people, different from the ones Ashlin Akau identified -- I believe they're different based on, you know, all of the fine print I've

been trying to divine here through these redactions, that they're
identifying different people.

I believe that Mr. Kinney is identifying, not Ashlin Akau as the get away driver, but someone else with the initials K.P. And I believe that Mr. Kinney -- that the redactions are concealing his statements about K.P., and another person who he, Kinney, says was involved with the initials D.P., a male. Ashlin Akau identifies different males.

These are not just inconsistent statements to use on cross-examination, this is stuff we need now, so we can do our investigation. I mean, in the context of Lindsey Kinney and his differences between Ashlin Akau, you know, these witnesses complain to the cops, and nothing happened. You know, they weren't even taken seriously because people believed Kinney, you know. And now Akau comes in and tells a different story. Which one do they believe now?

Kinney's version was used in wiretap applications, but we can't see -- I believe they're inconsistent, but I can't see because of the redactions with Ashlin Akau's. When they got to Aikahi Shopping Center, a male named redacted, picked them up. You know, redacted, that could be Kinney. Redacted, you know, drove them around the corner. I mean, it's just -- redacted believed that the reason for this was the ongoing feud between redacted and redacted. Again, now motive.

Well, you know, I mean, Your Honor, this is not even

the tip of the iceberg. This is such a small microcosm of what we're dealing with here.

Another one is there's another incident, in another report about a Chrysler that she rented for redacted to use as a safe car. Here, it looks like the redacted again is Jake Smith, if I'm guessing correctly. And it talks about things he did with co-defendants in the case that had nothing to do with Miske, but is alleged to be an affair of the Miske Enterprise, but I can't -- I can't -- this information would help me show that, and I don't have it.

You know, Ashlin Akau stated that on the night of the shooting blank redacted called her phone and said that, you know, Dae Han Moon did something, which is redacted. Shortly after, redacted, and a co-defendant showed up at her house.

You know, I just -- and the Government's claim that this is for witness security is just preposterous. I mean, everything that's inculpatory as to Mr. Miske is disclosed. It's the stuff about other people -- you know, how is this posing a threat to her if they disclose what she said about Jake Smith and Lindsey Kinney? And how is that posing a threat to anybody? So that's some examples of the redactions.

Then we have the stuff that's completely missing. So

Terence Chu says that in the reports prior to him intervening

with her father, she wasn't forthright. Well, we don't have

those. So, again, this is not just a matter of getting something

1 on the eve of trial to use in cross-examination. We need to see how her story evolved from when she, 2 according to Terence Chu, was not forthright until now, so we can 3 4 investigate the evolution of her story. And then what's his relationship with her father? He says he has a historical 5 relationship with her father that he used to persuade her to 6 7 change her story. Well, what kind of relationship is that? Is it from a soccer game or church, or is he a criminal informant? 8 9 And if he's somebody who rips off drug dealers, and is that how 10 Ashlin Akau got into the trade, rather than through the alleged 11 Miske Enterprise. 12 These things are, you know, just -- I hope I'm getting 13 my point across as to how this is just preventing us from 14 investigation and, you know, conducting an effective defense. 15 The Government's claim that this is all just -- you know, the 16 302s are not discoverable is just -- I mean, I just -- I mean, 17 they cite one case that says it under certain circumstances. There's plenty of cases that say 302s are discoverable. 18 19 The United States v. Kohring case out of the Ninth 20 Circuit is a big one. It talks about how you can use them for 21 cross-examination. You can use them to develop admissible

admissible.

So that's some of the examples of what we're seeking here. And I know, Your Honor, you've read everything, so

evidence, to pursue leads, and also, in some instances, they're

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basically what I want. In this motion is the stuff I've asked for related to Ashlin Akau, and then more broadly for the Government to be ordered to remove all discoverable redactions from their work -- from the discovery. They talk about human error, Your Honor. You know, it's not our problem they've committed so many errors. I mean, when I got the first set of discovery -- I mean, his name -there's contracts where Mr. Miske is a party to the contract, and they redact the address. The address of whatever, if it's a real property transaction. They redact his information on his own bank accounts that I can't see the account numbers, so I can't even do any financial analysis. And so what -- I mean, why am I supposed to correct their mistakes in millions of pages? And now we're talking about close to 80 terabytes of data. You know, they say, oh, this is just a canned Giglio motion. It's not. You know, I mean, this has taken me so much time to figure out what exists, and what's missing, and how to go about getting it. I mean, I talked to them -- after I got the first round of discovery in August 2020, I called them, and I said, you know what, you guys, I think you made some human errors in your redactions. You think you could take another look and maybe correct it? No, nothing. I mean, and how many letters and emails did I have to write before 14 months after the indictment I get 60 gigabytes of unredacted financial records. And nobody

1 else has that. Why not? 2 So, anyway, to just pass this off as a canned Giglio motion is just another example of their misconduct as far as I'm 3 concerned. And it also ignores -- you know, Rule 5(f) wasn't in 4 5 play when the arraignment was -- happened in Mr. Miske's case. It is now. I mean, what is that? Is that real? I mean, you 6 7 know, the Court tells them now, you know, you've got a duty to timely produce Brady material. That's set at every initial 8 9 appearance now. Have it make -- you know, tell them it means 10 something. They're just ignoring that. 11 They ignored the entire content of my motion and just 12 said, oh, she's just asking for Giglio material. She knows she 13 doesn't get that until later. That's not what this is. I don't 14 know if they just didn't read it or what. And even if it was 15 just Giglio material, why not produce it now after the fiasco 16 they've created. I mean, we're talking about a three month --17 three to four month trial. You know, this is -- what are they going to flood us with in the month before trial? It's going to 18 turn into a seven to eighth month trial. 19 20 And then it just boggles my mind that they use the 21 opposition to this motion to commend themselves for their 22 discovery practice, because, oh, they've worked so hard, and they 23 produced so much. In the past two months since I filed my first

motion to compel, they have produced 20 times the amount of

discovery that everybody is talking about makes it the largest

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1 case ever in the District of Hawai'i and the largest case handled by the coordinating discovery attorney. 2 I now have 20 times that amount and most of it was just 3 4 seized from Mr. Miske and his businesses on the day of his 5 arrest. I asked them, why did it take a year-and-a-half for me to get this? I got no answer. I mean, that's just Rule 16 101. 6 7 And they just -- I still don't have a complete extraction of the cell phone that was on him the day he was arrested. They've 8 given me some gray key progress reports now, which are partial 9 10 data. I still don't even have the complete extraction. 11 And then what I have now -- also, you know, this 12 investigation has been going on for so long, so when I get the 13 first production, and I say, can you tell me what warrants you 14 executed on my client's accounts, oh, go look through the 15 discovery, figure it out yourself. 16 So after 700,000 pages, I now have a list of 20 17 warrants, and I'm combing through the discovery. And I put in my first motion, well, here's three examples where I know I don't 18 have everything. I don't know about the rest, because I can't 19 20 figure it out. What do I get? I get now returns for 17 of those 21 warrants. It wasn't in the discovery. Why not? I mean, again, 22 this is Rule 16 101. And now I still don't have complete data,

and I got some discs. They can't even bother to double check

their work. I got empty discs with phone numbers on them and no

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data on them.

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Anyway, in addition to what they produced to Miske only in the past two months, they also, in January, produced a million files to the coordinating discovery attorney. In January. -- a year-and-a-half after the indictment. That's also Rule 16 101. It appears, from what I can tell, to be mostly the paper that was seized from the businesses. Whereas Miske, only, has now gotten 39 digital -- 39 terabytes of digital data. There's a million files to the coordinating discovery attorney. Why did that take a year-and-a-half? Again, I asked them. I got now answer. Now I -- you know, it took a while for me to figure out that this was missing because of everything they do give us, largely blacked out. But when I figured it out last June, I told them, hey, I don't even have what you guys seized on the day of the arrest. Do I get an answer? No. Instead, I get, oh, we've taken death off the table, so now your discovery requests are moot. Like what the -- how is that moot? So, no -- I respond, no, it's not moot. This is basic Rule 16 material. Again, no answer. Not until I take the time to file my first motion to compel. All of this doesn't even include the 40 terabytes of pole cam data. That was produced to the coordinating discovery attorney in December, just this past December. Why did that take so long? I told them a while ago I wanted all of that.

exculpatory, Your Honor. They had my client under surveillance

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for years. 24/7 surveillance. It's going to show he was a lawful businessman, living a normal life, going to Starbucks, going to the gym, going to work, hanging out with his girlfriend, you know, and not doing what these witnesses say he was doing. That's what this data is. It's an extraordinary amount of exculpatory data. The pole cam data is what's outside Kamaaina Termite. The digital data, which they didn't give me until January is inside Kamaaina Termite. And between the two, we're going to be able to paint a picture that totally defeats this case, and they've been withholding it. Now, why? I don't know. I can't get any kind of straight answer. Now they talk about, oh, well, the case was declared complex, and nobody objected to rolling discovery. Okay. But nobody agreed to one-and-a-half years, and still I don't even have a complete extraction of his cell phone. Now we, last October, moved to continue this trial. Αt that time, trial was in March. And now we know that all this stuff they were sitting on. They were sitting on, yeah, 80 terabytes of discoverable data. Did they join our motion to No. They didn't oppose it, but they didn't say, yeah, you guys need this continuance because we're sitting on a boat load of discovery that we haven't produced yet. No, they didn't say anything like that. You know, I mean, how do they justify not producing it until January when there was a prior trial date? You know, and

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now we're looking at another continuance because other codefendants don't even have what I have. And now, how am I going to get all of this to Mr. Miske? I asked them that the other day. Would you help me get the laptop back? I don't get help on that. I get maybe help with a hard drive. There's no way that Mr. Miske is going to be able to look at all this stuff on the FDC computers, even with hard drives. It requires applications -- forensic applications to review the data. It's not possible. Now he had a laptop for a number of months while the case was capital. This stuff should have been there then. So, you know, what am I going to do? I mean, are we going to continue this for three years, and am I going to spend every available visiting hour there with my own computer, so he can see all this stuff? It's just completely -- completely out of control. And they accuse me of overwrought rhetoric. Your Honor, I've been doing this for 34 years. I've never ever seen a case like this. And, you know, when I brought these issues up in other -- I don't bring this stuff up in every case. Most cases I don't do that. I've had cases with Mike Nammar that have never had any problems like this. I've had plenty of cases with Mark Inciong where I -- in one case we had some discovery issues. All the rest of them none. When I bring issues like this it's because there's merit and this case is worse than (indiscernible), which resulted

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    in sanctions. It's worse than McCoy (phonetic), which resulted
    in dismissal. It's worse than Salinas (phonetic), which resulted
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    in a choice between sanctions and a continuance. It's way worse
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    than all of them. It just -- it boggle my mind. And that they
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    could sit here and commend themselves for that, you know, they're
    trying to put this man away for life. Can't they at least follow
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    the rules?
              That's all I have, Your Honor, unless you have any
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    questions for me.
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              THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Panagakos. And, you
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    know, I'm listening carefully. I've read everything carefully,
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    and I've been taking notes. I don't have any questions for you,
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    but I hear your sincerity, I hear your passion. I don't want you
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    to take my silence as anything other than listening carefully. I
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    don't have any questions for you right now.
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              Mr. Smith, are you arguing this morning for the
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    Government?
              MR. SMITH: Yes, Your Honor. Good morning and may it
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    please the Court.
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              Ms. Panagakos has raised a number of discovery
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    arguments. There are responses to everything she's saying, but
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    this is a hearing on the second motion to compel, so I'm going to
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    focus on that.
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              Your Honor, in support of his motion to compel, Mr.
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    Miske makes extraordinarily serious allegations against the
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    Government, and he's seeking extraordinary relief from this
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    Court. He claims most clearly in his reply brief, and again
    today in his argument, that we're concealing exculpatory
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    information through our redactions on discovery we produced.
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    claims, again most clearly in his reply brief and in today's
    argument, that we have not yet produced some exculpatory
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    information related to an individual named Ashlin Akau. And
    these are some of the most serious allegations that could be made
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    against the prosecution.
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              Mr. Miske makes these accusations even though we are
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    nearly six months away from trial, and even though the Government
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    fully intends to produce much of the information he's asking for,
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    but just closer to trial. And having made these serious --
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              THE COURT: Okay. Can I pause you there, Mr. Smith?
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    So I agree. I think at its heart, as I understand the motion,
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    Mr. Miske is asserting that the Government is deliberately
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    withholding information that is discoverable under Rule 16 and
    Brady. I think that's a different version of what you just said.
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    Now when I read your opp, I didn't see anything disputing that
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    statement. So how do you respond to it?
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              MR. SMITH: Yes, Your Honor. Our opposition -- the
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    position we take in our opposition is that there is nothing
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    exculpatory that Mr. Miske is pointing to. What he is --
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              THE COURT: Okay. So let me ask the rest of it.
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    Mr. Miske is arguing two points. The Government is deliberately
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    withholding information discoverable under Rule 16, and
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    information that is discoverable under Brady. What is the
    Government's responses to both? And I want you to be very clear.
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    I agree these are serious allegations, and I agree these are
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    serious issues. And if you're going to deny those and the
    information turns out differently later, that's going to be
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    important.
              MR. SMITH: We understand that, Your Honor.
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              We disagree with Mr. Miske's representations on both of
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    those counts.
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              THE COURT: Okay. So you're telling me -- so you're
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    telling me the Government is not withholding exculpatory
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    information. Now let's narrow to Ms. Akau or Brady information
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    as to Ms. Akau.
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              MR. SMITH: Yes, Your Honor. That is the focus of Mr.
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    Miske's motion. I would like to touch on each of the particular
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    examples that Mr. Miske points to.
              THE COURT:
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                          Okay.
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              MR. SMITH: But before I get to that, Your Honor, there
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    is sort of a -- there are a couple of broader points.
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              First of all, as Mr. Miske himself acknowledges, the
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    gist of or the heart of what he's asking for is to have fewer
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    redactions on FBI 302s or HSI -- comparable HSI reports of
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    interviews with this expected witness, and it Ninth Circuit law,
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    United States v. Alvarez, a 2004 decision, 358 F.3d. 1194, 12 --
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at page 1211. And I, quote, "When the defense seeks evidence, which qualifies as both Jencks Act and Brady material the Jencks Act standards control." And I think one of the reasons for that, of course, Your Honor, is that if Defendant is proposing a theory of what qualifies as exculpatory information, that would completely undermine the protections of the Jencks Act for a witness. is a very strong interpre -- that's a very strong indication that the theory the defense counsel is proposing for interpreting Brady is wrong. THE COURT: Okay. But you just told me there is no Brady information that we're talking about. So why does that apply? MR. SMITH: Your Honor, a couple of reasons. Number one, we don't think that -- we don't think that it's Brady. We don't think it's exculpatory. We do agree that a lot of this information is impeachment, which is why we are completely prepared to produce it at the appropriate time. Secondly, Your Honor, a couple of subsidiary points. Even if it were Brady, Ms. Panagakos is incorrect that it would need to be produced now. That's what Alvarez stands for. In addition, Your Honor, I think the interpretation of what qualifies as exculpatory should not be done so expansively that it would have the effect of undermining the protections of the Jencks Act.

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So all of those points, we would submit, dovetail. bottom line, Your Honor, is that although we do understand we have an obligation to produce this information at the appropriate time, that time is not now. And I want to be clear about exactly what Mr. Miske is complaining about in his second motion to compel, Your Honor. Why don't we just star with the information about the Hobbs Act Robbery? Mr. Miske is saying that one or more members of Nakipi participated in that robbery. He believes that that's information that he can use in some way at trial. But that information, Your Honor, is not redacted. That information is unredacted in the report. Your Honor has now copies, both of the versions of the report that contain the redactions that Mr. Miske has, and also has a completely unredacted copy as well. The information from this witness -- this expected witness to the effect that one or more members of Nakipi participated in that robbery is not redacted. That information was produced. What Mr. Miske is really complaining about there is that there are two particular individuals, in addition to the ones -- the many others that have been produced, whose names have been redacted. Those are individuals who have not been publicly alleged or otherwise publicly identified as people who participated in the offense, and their names, not the context, but their names have been redacted from these reports.

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So the question is, if there's something about the names of these individuals, which is what's underneath these redactions that is exculpatory, meaning that it is inconsistent with Mr. Miske's factual quilt or with an element of the offense. And the Court can see for itself by looking under the There's nothing underneath those redactions that redactions. says, as Mr. Miske speculates, that this robbery was really the affairs of Nakipi. There's nothing under those redactions that says the victim was picked out because of some beef with Nakipi. Those are all speculative suggestions that Mr. Miske is proposing. And, Your Honor, can see for yourself, looking under the redactions, there is nothing of that sort there. And, Your Honor, I do want to take a step back and just talk a little bit about what the evidence at this trial is going to show, because I think there is an extent to which Mr. Miske is portraying it differently from how it will actually be presented at trial. Your Honor, the Government's evidence at trial will show that Mr. Miske recruited individuals from all parts of society to carry out his criminal misdeeds. It didn't matter whether you were a member of (indiscernible), or Nakipi, or anything else, as long as you did what Mr. Miske told you to do. That's what the Government's evidence will show at trial.

And that's why, Your Honor, as co-defendant Norman Akau

admitted in his quilty plea allocution before Judge Watson, Mr.

1 Miske recruited him to help carry out a murder for hire contract even though Norman Akau is a member of Nakipi. 2 So the mere fact, Your Honor, that individuals who 3 4 participated in the affairs of Mr. Miske and the Miske Enterprise 5 might have had other criminal associations, it's not exculpatory. It's not inconsistent with any element the Government will be 6 7 proving at trial, nor is it exculpatory, as Mr. Miske suggests, with respect to some drug trafficking conduct. 8 9 That the fact that Mr. Miske himself was not directly 10 involved in some of these crimes, nor is that exculpatory. 11 Again, Your Honor, as multiple witnesses have now admitted in their guilty plea allocutions before Judge Watson, they were 12 13 emboldened by their association with Mr. Miske and the protection 14 he provided to them. And that's why those crimes bear a 15 relationship to the Miske Enterprise. 16 So to the extent Ms. Panagakos' argument is that some 17 of the people Mr. Miske recruited to commit his offenses were involved in, for example, a substantial amount of drug 18 trafficking activity, that's not exculpatory information. 19 20 Now if there were some statement or piece of 21 information that said that these individuals were not under 22 Miske's protection or that they were not emboldened by their 23 association with him and his racketeering enterprise, then Mr. 24 Miske would have a better argument that that information would be 25 inconsistent with his guilt or with an element of the offense,

but again there is no such statement under the redactions. again, the Court has the unredacted copies of all these documents and will be able to see that for itself. With respect to Mr. Miske's claim that the Government's redactions are concealing exculpatory information about the attempted murder of Victim-2, this is charged in Count 8, Your Honor, that again is untrue. The Government's evidence at trial will show that there were several reasons why that attempted murder took place. One of them, that was one of the participants owed a drug debt to the victim that he didn't intend to repay. That fact has been produced. Mr. Miske is aware that. Another reason was that Mr. Miske was angry at the victim because of social media posts the victim has made, and that will also be proved at trial. And it was for that latter reason that Mr. Miske himself drove to the Kualoa Ranch to participate personally in the shooting together with his halfbrother, John Stancil, and other members and associates of the Miske Enterprise. Now one or more members of Nakipi did assist Mr. Miske and his associates, including Mr. Norman Akau, and including by taking away the victim's firearm, which had the effect of allowing Mr. Miske's associates to attack that victim without repercussion. But that information is not exculpatory. It's not inconsistent with any element the Government has to prove at

trial.

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before trial.

Nor is the suggestion that Ms. Panagakos raised today that it would be of interest to her to know who Norman Akau's calabash cousin is. There's nothing about that fact that is exculpatory, Your Honor. And even if Ms. Panagakos would find that information interesting or even useful, that's not the question in analyzing whether the information qualifies as Brady. And again, Your Honor, the information that we're talking about here is information about what the Government's expected witnesses will testify about at trial. A lot of this information is -- I believe Mr. Miske himself acknowledges finally in his reply, a lot of this information, these inculpatory interviews are the sort of information that the Government has no obligation to produce at all at this stage in the case, and that's what the Ninth Circuit's decision in Fort stands for. Now Mr. Miske says that the Government -- this is page 8 of his reply, that the Government made a decision to disclose the substance of inculpatory interviews, while he claims we disagree, but he claims purposely concealing exculpatory information provided during those same interviews. But even if he were correct in making that argument, the holding of the Ninth Circuit's decision in Alvarez still applies. That even if we have an obligation to produce that information, which we will do,

we don't have to produce that information more than six months

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Mr. Miske makes -- points to a number of other things to which he applies the label of exculpatory, but as we said in our opposition, Your Honor, it is quite clear that these items are impeachment material. They're not exculpatory. And simply labeling them as exculpatory doesn't change their nature. So, for example, Your Honor, at page 14 -- or page 12 of Mr. Miske's initial memorandum in support, they offer what I would describe as a conclusory statement that unproduced reports of interviews with Ashlin Akau's father are, quote/unquote, "clearly exculpatory, as well as their relationship between a case agent and Ms. Akau's father." First of all, Your Honor, what Mr. Miske is suggesting is he would like to use this information to contradict, or dispute, or try to -- attempt to undermine, in his words, crossexamine, Ms. Akau at trial to try to persuade the jury that it should discredit or not believe the information that Ms. Akau provides. That is a classic example of impeachment material. And it doesn't become exculpatory merely because defense counsel attempts to attach that label to it. On page 14, Mr. Miske's initial memorandum describes what he claims is the case agent -- special agent Terence Chu's efforts to create favor with Ashlin Akau. He calls that exculpatory. And, again, that's classic impeachment material. The other point there is that we actually did produce a report as Ms. Panagakos knows, and which describes a lot of what she is

1 saying she doesn't have. The Court can see that in the binders 2 that we submitted for in camera review. On page 15 of Mr. Miske's initial memorandum in 3 4 support, Mr. Miske claims that there is a tremendous amount of 5 information going to Ashlin Akau's credibility, supposed bias, and motive to cooperate. And again, Mr. Miske applies the label 6 7 of exculpatory to that. But as we said in our opposition, this is impeachment material, and we agree that these are items that 8 9 Mr. Miske is entitled to receive. 10 And we also recognize, Your Honor, that given the 11 voluminous nature of the discovery in this case and the fact that 12 this is a very complex case, that it would make sense to have 13 conversations about how far in advance of trial we should be 14 producing even impeachment material. 15 So the limited point we're making today is that Mr. 16 Miske's suggestion that he is already entitled to this 17 information, that it's somehow Government misconduct not to have provided it, that that is without merit. 18 19 On page 17 of Mr. Miske's initial memorandum in 20 support, he claims inconsistencies between sources. 21 uses the label exculpatory. But, Your Honor, as we say in our 22 memorandum in opposition that's impeachment material. An 23 impeachment material that would be used to contradict or attempt

So, Your Honor, that is the point -- that is the main

to undermine the credibility of those witnesses.

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point that we try to explain in our memorandum in opposition, which is that we understand that we have an obligation to produce a lot of this information for two independent reasons. One is because it would qualify as Jencks Act material for a lot of witnesses the Government intends to call at trial. The second reason is that it is true, Mr. Miske could use a lot of this information to attempt to impeach the credibility of the witnesses the Government calls at trial, but the information doesn't become immediately producible simply because Mr. Miske has attached the label of exculpatory, nor does it become exculpatory simply because Mr. Miske offers a conclusory statement that information that is redacted at the moment would undermine essential elements of the RICO claim. Court can see the information under those redactions and there is no such information lurking underneath those redactions as we've explained. There is an additional point I would like to make, Your Honor, with the Court's indulgence. I think it does bear pointing out that if the Government's handling of discovery were as bad as Mr. Miske has been suggesting, you wouldn't expect any other defense counsel in this case to be able to fully and competently do their jobs, but the opposite has been true. And just to take one example, we understand that counsel for Defendant Michael Buntenbah has reviewed every piece of evidence we've produced, and when he's had questions about

1 discovery, he hasn't file a motion with sweeping accusations and 2 assumptions about what's redacted. Instead, he has simply reached out to us with specific questions, not categorical 3 4 complaints. And we have conferred with him and helped him 5 understand particular items he's asking about that were appropriate. 6 7 Many of Mr. Miske's co-defendants have pleaded quilty to the racketeering conspiracy at this point, including Kaulana 8 9 Freitas, Harry Kauhi, Norman Akau, and Hunter Wilson. And it 10 cannot credibly be suggested, Your Honor, that the experience 11 defense counsel for these Defendants, who have all made their 12 professional judgment call, that they could recommend a guilty 13 plea to their clients, were unable to effectively review the 14 discovery produced to them because of the Government's 15 redactions. 16 And finally, Your Honor, I would like to address a 17 statement that Mr. Miske included in his initial memorandum in

support of his motion, and this is at page 3 of his memorandum. Mr. Miske quotes the Supreme Court's decision in Kyles v. Whitley for the proposition that there is no difference between exculpatory and impeachment evidence for Brady purposes.

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He doesn't exactly explain what he proposes that quotation to mean, but I think from context it's pretty clear, given that what he's seeking right now is impeachment evidence that his suggestion is that the timing of disclosures for both,

1 at least in this case ought to be the same and that's simply not correct, Your Honor. The quotation in Mr. Miske's initial 2 3 memorandum has been taken out of context. The Supreme Court in 4 Kyles v. Whitley was explaining that the same materiality 5 standard applies to exculpatory and impeachment material. And the issue of materiality typically comes up in cases in which 6 7 information is never produced, and then the failure to produce is discovered only after trial. 8 9 And, Your Honor, in that context, as the Supreme Court 10 explained in Kyles and in early case of United States v. Bagley, 11 the same materiality standard should apply regardless of whether 12 evidence is exculpatory or impeachment. That's worlds apart from 13 what we're dealing with here, Your Honor. We fully intend to 14 produce much of Miske is requesting. And the question is simply 15 whether it all needs to be produced now, six months from trial. 16 And there is a well established difference between 17 exculpatory and impeachment evidence on that front as the Local Rules recognize. Impeachment information need not be produced 18 this far in advance of trial. 19 And, Your Honor, we think at the end of the day it's 20 21 Miske's initial memorandum that makes quite clear what he's 22 really after here. He wants impeachment material. He wants the 23 Court to say he has the right to completely unredacted copies of our witness statements six months in advance of trial. And I 24 25 know Your Honor asked us to focus on Ms. Akau today, but Mr.

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    Miske's motions papers, for example, on pages 23 and 24 of his
    initial memorandum are not so limited.
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              He seeks in his motion, and I quote, "all proffers from
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    all cooperating Government witnesses and all information, which
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    reveals the negotiation process by which these witnesses'
    received leniency in plea agreements and cooperation agreements."
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    We agree that at the appropriate time he's entitled to that
    information, but he's not entitled to it now.
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              And for those reasons, Your Honor, we believe this
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    motion should be denied. I'm happy to answer any questions the
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    Court might have.
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              THE COURT: Okay. Just a couple questions. U.S. v.
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    Alvarez that you asked me to review, is that in your memo in opp?
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              MR. SMITH:
                         It's not, Your Honor.
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                          Okay. Second question. You mentioned that
              THE COURT:
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    you concede that Ms. Panagakos might find some of the redacted or
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    not produced information useful, was the word I wrote down. How
    is that different from being material under Rule 16?
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              MR. SMITH: Your Honor, United State v. Fort makes it
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    very clear that if the FBI 302s don't fall within the scope of
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    Rule 16. But, in any event, I do believe that there is the
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    question of whether these are witness statements, which they are
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    by even Ms. Panagakos' admission in her reply brief, and her
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    point is simply that within these FBI and HSI reports of
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    interviews, she thinks there's some information that she would
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1 like to have. But in that context, it's the Jencks Act that applies and that controls. 2 Separately, if there were Rule 16 material, and there 3 4 is some of that implicated in Mr. Miske's initial motion, and 5 that will be a discussion for another day, as I understand, but the focus of Ms. Pangakos' motion here, at least when it comes to 6 7 redactions are reports that reflect interviews, and those are all materials that are covered by the Jencks Act. 8 9 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Ms. Panagakos. 10 MS. PANAGAKOS: Your Honor, I don't know where Mr. 11 Smith has been practicing, but reports of interviews that haven't 12 been adopted or signed by the witness are not Jencks materials. 13 The Jencks Act -- I mean, I'm not seeking Jencks -- it just 14 doesn't apply. That's not what this is. I'm not seeking grand 15 jury transcripts. I'm not seeking written statements of Ms. Akau 16 that she signed and adopted. These are reports by agents as to 17 what Ms. Akau said, and they contain exculpatory information that is relevant to undermine the RICO allegations itself, not just 18 the credibility of a witness. 19 20 You know, I mean, yeah, if we just want to sit and roll 21 over and say, okay, fine, the Government's theory is correct, 22 okay, fine. But that's not -- I mean, we have to -- we have to 23 have what we need. We have to have it. Brady says you have to 24 have it in time to use it, and this stuff requires investigation. 25 The people who are redacted from the Nicholas Carignan,

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okay, they're redacted because they haven't been publicly disclosed. Are they saying that Jacob Smith is not here? Are they saying that at page 2-1-6-7-3-3, some of these redactions are not concealing Jacob Smith's involvement in the Carignan robbery. They said it's just two people. I can't even tell it's just two people. I can't tell the number of people who they're concealing. But that's what he said, just two people who haven't been disclosed. Compare that and tell me that Jake Smith's name is not there. And if it's not there, that makes it all the more exculpatory because he's supposed to be one of the prime actors in this thing. This is not just about inconsistencies about -- it's about who committed these offenses and what were their relationships with one another. It's -- oh, because they claim Akau said -- Norman Akau says that Mr. Miske recruited him for some other offense, therefore, this Nakipi related drug related robbery it somehow has to do with Miske. There's nowhere in here that says that Miske recruited anybody for that. That's why we need to know who is everyone that's involved and what -- you know, he said there was no beef between the drug dealer and Nakipi. I didn't say that there was a beef. I said it's a drug -- that the motive was drugs that had nothing to do with Mr. Miske and the people who did it were from Nakipi. And we have a right to know who the victim was, what the motive was, why this person was selected, and who participated.

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It's exculpatory. It goes -- they're the ones who chose this 20 plus RICO charge, not us. They're the ones who claim that everything that happened on this Island, by any of these people, at any time, had something to do with Miske. And, oh, yeah, because of their conclusions that these people say they were emboldened by their association. What's the facts that support that conclusion? And what's the facts that don't? And that's why all these reports -- these particular reports need to be disclosed because there's no facts that support any claims that anything -- anybody was emboldened by their association with Miske to rob Nicholas Carignan. That's just -- you know, they say, okay, Kyles v. Whitley, it's about materiality. Yeah, the information in that case that was concealed was not some impeachment material that only had to be disclosed on the eve of trial. It was reports of interviews of a witness that contained evidence to show that someone else did something. That's exactly the kind of stuff we're looking for here. You know, I mean, it's not exculpatory, it's impeachment. What does it mean when they say impeachment is -they say the same thing under Brady. And this materiality stuff, that's just not applicable here either, because we're pretrial and the Ninth Circuit has repeatedly approved District Courts who don't apply the materiality standard to pretrial exculpatory disclosure obligations.

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You know, I mean, they sit here and say what they -what their evidence will show, what their evidence will show. Well, we need the evidence that we said say helps us take down this RICO allegation. They've made a probable cause showing without any challenge. That's all they've done. And then so other people have pled quilty. Okay. We're fighting. We're fighting because they're trying to put this man away life. Just give us due process and the right to compare -- present a complete defense and follow the rules. And it's just not so that these are never Rule 16. Oh, you can just produce everything except these redactions, and it's not Rule 16? You know, that's just not correct. I think the Fort case cites the Armstrong case, which says -- I mean, there's limits to this. I think Judge Breyer's concurrence in the Armstrong case talks about how it's got to -it's subject to traditional work product limitation. Need outweighs it. Plus, I mean, they can be admissible. So they're not just strict work product privilege. I mean, these things get admitted in evidence. Anyway, Your Honor, I hope I've, you know --THE COURT: I understand your position. MS. PANAGAKOS: Redacted and the unredacted, you know, I hope you can see that the things that are being concealed from us are helpful to us to establish our defense to negate the essential elements of the RICO charge.

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The drug conspiracy charge. This Nicholas Carignan drug robbery is part of Count 16. It has nothing to do with Miske. Don't we have a right to see who was involved. I mean, you know. The stuff with her father. It's not just about crossexamining them about what happened with the father, it's about what took place. What are the facts? What are the exculpatory facts? There's every indication here that these things are exculpatory and that they need to be produced now because they're needed for pretrial investigation. Thank you, Your Honor. Do you have any questions for me at this point? THE COURT: Just one last one. So -- and you each have touched on it this morning. I would say 98 percent of the motion and the reply are very narrowly focused on Ashlin Akau, but there is a broad statement towards -- at least one towards the end of the initial motion, and you made one this morning saying you want this information as to everybody. I need to understand exactly which it is. MS. PANAGAKOS: Your Honor, this motion is about Ashlin Akau. Now one more thing, they talk about Butenbah's attorney calls up with questions. I have tried so many times to talk to them, to email them. Five times I think I asked for that -- the ex parte submission in support of the search warrant for the boat. It's one of the exhibits on the other motion. Five

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    requests for that specific document. You know, they just ignore
         I have been trying, Your Honor, on the phone, by email, by
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    letters.
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              So, yes, I do have that general statement at the end,
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    and that's just more, Your Honor, to, you know, just order them
    to comply with Rule 16 and Brady. This motion is specific to
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    Ashlin Akau.
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              THE COURT: Okay.
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              MS. PANAGAKOS: As I said in my first motion to compel,
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    which hasn't been heard yet, I can't -- you know, I can do
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    another motion like this with specifics as to exculpatory
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    evidence that's being concealed with regard to other racketeering
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    acts, other counts, and other witnesses. So this one is about
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    Ashlin Akau with just a broad request to ask them to comply with
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    Rule 16 and Brady.
                         Okay. Thank you. I understand.
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              THE COURT:
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              All right. I'm going to take this matter under
    submission. I think both sides deserve a written order on this,
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    and I'll get that out by early next week. Thank you all. We
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    will be in recess.
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         (Proceedings concluded)
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CERTIFICATE

I, Jessica B. Cahill, court approved transcriber, do hereby certify that pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §753, the foregoing is a complete, true, and correct transcript from the official electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter and that the transcript page format is in conformance with the regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Dated: <u>April 24, 2022</u>

Jessica B. Cahill, CER/CET-708

Xinia B. Cahill